

war level. This is due to several factors. The local prices for reed products are said to be too low, and access to Japanese markets is difficult today due to the separation of Okinawa and Japan. Since the war local food shortages and changed tastes and diet have influenced change to greater rice production. Many houses in Kanagusuku lost their mat-weaving looms during the war, depriving them of this means of support. In addition, there is some feeling that it is too time-consuming and the young girls do not like it.

One taubo produces about two bundles of reed, which is worth about ¥10 a bundle when dried. Usually the reed is not sold, but is made by the producer's family into mats. Two bundles of reeds make one 'goza' mat, which sells for ¥65-100 in Naha. One person can make about two of these mats in one day. However, in almost all families this is part-time work, the woman of the house weaving in her spare time. One family in the village fortunate enough to own two looms employs two village girls full time as long as a supply of reeds is available.

The covering for the 'tatami' mat is called 'tatami omote'. An individual can make about six of these per day. They are faster-made than 'goza' because the ends do not have to be tied off and bordered. These sell for about ¥45 in Naha, which place people prefer to Itoman as a market for their reed products. However, rice straw to be used in the base of 'tatami' is sold in Itoman because the cost of transporting the bulky straw to Naha would be prohibitive---it is sold for only ¥1 or ¥2 per bundle. The Agricultural Co-operative is trying to arrange for the sale of 'tatami omote' in Kagoshima where ¥85 per mat can be obtained. The first such postwar collection and sale was made early in 1954.

Prewar Home Industry in Yamada Before the war people in Yamada made much of their own clothing, and were self-sufficient in most of the tools they used. Most of the clothing was made by the women of the village themselves. Most women wove, and many wove constantly when not in the fields. Many had their own looms, but those who did not borrowed looms from their neighbors.

The usual summer garment was a kimono of banana-fiber cloth and the usual winter garment one of cotton. The former was made wholly at home, from the tree to the finished garment. For the cotton kimono the threads were purchased, usually at Kadena, already dyed, and the cloth woven at home.

Several families had silkworms. They got the eggs from Japan and fed the worms on mulberry leaves they grew in their yards. These women spun and wove at home but they sometimes had professional dyers at Kadena or Naha dye the threads for them. Silk garments, like store-bought garments, were only for grand occasions.

Before the war some Yamada women made "panama" hats in their homes as piecework for a hat company. The company furnished the materials and bought the finished product. This was one of the few sources of cash available outside the sugar crop. Baskets, carrying bags, and raincoats made of

Baskets, carrying bags, and raincoats made of  
 294 fiber from the trunk of the chigu palm, raincoats from the excess rice straw,  
 295 and hats made from the leaf of the kuba palm completed the list of major items  
 made at home.

291 Postwar Home Industry in Yamada Before the war many---probably most---Yamada  
 178 people had never worn Western-style clothing.  
 179 The few school teachers and a man who worked at the 'son' office were probably  
 the only exceptions. Some of the young men who went to Naichi to work ac-  
 quired Western clothing there, but the older men and women continued to wear  
 kimono. During the invasion, houses, looms, and other equipment---and much of  
 the clothing---of the people of Yamada were destroyed. At Ishikawa and else-  
 where after the battle they received cast-off army clothing. For a time they  
 wore only this and what little they had salvaged from the battle. At present  
 they have supplemented this with Japanese and American-made civilian clothing  
 in Western types. Probably no one in Yamada weaves cloth today. Only one  
 296 cloth loom was located in the whole village, and this had been put away. No  
 291 one raises silkworms.

178 Basketry is still made, but only for local use. Raincoats of straw  
 295 and palm bark are not made in Yamada, but a few are brought in from the north.  
 294 However, the army poncho has in part replaced this garment. The kubagasa, the  
 291 hat made from the kuba palm leaf, is still made and worn in Yamada, but prob-  
 ably not as much as before the war. A variety of store-bought hats, includ-  
 ing sun-helmets, are worn by the younger men.

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Canvas acquired